

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.3% (1,551) of these admissions reside in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District. 5% (70) of admissions from the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 73% were male and 27% were female.
- 52% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 92% were white non-Latino, 2% were black non-Latino, 4% were Latino and 3% were other racial categories.
- 64% were never married, 16% were married, and 21% reported not to be married now.
- 25% of admissions had less than high school education, 47% completed high school, and 28% had more than high school education.
- 42% were employed.
- 6% were homeless.
- 33% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	49%	29%	9%	3%	1%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003							
First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,437	1,134	445	358	265	501	388
FY '96	1,357	1,114	459	326	209	472	321
FY '97	1,584	1,255	539	346	209	532	385
FY '98	1,651	1,234	493	341	190	674	486
FY '99	1,622	1,262	546	355	168	651	514
FY '00	1,800	1,384	535	369	140	656	494
FY '01	1,746	1,306	515	318	133	669	474
FY '02	1,943	1,448	560	371	136	721	508
FY '03	1,551	1,135	469	314	105	484	345

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Essex and Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

